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17. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a text-mode touchpad for instructing a voice recognition system to interpret spoken words literally as text to be inserted into a software application displayed on a display device by speaking into the microphone.

18. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a command-mode touchpad for instructing a voice recognition system to interpret spoken words as operating commands for the electronic device or a software application by speaking into the microphone.

REMARKS

1. The applicant herewith petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for reply to the Office action dated 9/25/2002 for 3 month(s) from 12/25/2002 to 3/25/2003. Submitted herewith is a form PTO-2038 for payment of \$465 to cover the cost of the extension.

2. Claim 1 is amended to contain the subject matter of claim 2, and therefore contains no new matter.

3. As to the Information Disclosure Statement request, it is noted that the agent of record has changed for this case, and the documents requested by the examiner are not known by the agent. The examiner is requested to contact the new agent of record, Richard Ward, at 781-316-0118 to discuss the references that are needed.

4. Claims 1 and 3-37 are respectfully argued to be patentable over the prior art of record because they do not disclose, or render obvious in any proper combination, an

apparatus comprising, as a minimum, a plurality of finger shaped sleeves, wherein a microphone and a control element are coupled to said sleeves, or alternatively, a method for using said apparatus. The examiner cites Wambach (5,444,462), Dao et al. (5,835,077), and Bartlett (US 6,151,208) as being relevant prior art. As the examiner fails to cite the presence of a microphone, nor has he stated any motivation for combining a microphone located on a finger sleeve with any of said references, it is submitted that the claims are patentable. Furthermore, it is noted that the problems solved by such a combination are cited on pages 1-3 of the application.

5. The applicants hereby request a personal interview with the examiner to be held shortly after the receipt of this amendment by the examiner. The examiner is requested to contact Richard Ward at 781-316-0118 or via e-mail for the purposes of making arrangements. The examiner is also encouraged to call or e-mail if he has any questions or comments regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version with markings to show changes made

1. (Amended) An apparatus for controlling an electric device, comprising:

a plurality of finger-shaped sleeves that are coupled together and are each worn on a different finger of a hand, wherein at least one of the plurality of sleeves has at least one control element for operating an electronic device using finger movements; and

a microphone coupled to one of the plurality of sleeves, wherein the electronic device is operated using a combination of finger movements and voice commands.

17. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim [2] 1, wherein the apparatus includes a text-mode touchpad for instructing a voice recognition system to interpret spoken words literally as text to be inserted into a software application displayed on a display device by speaking into the microphone.

18. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim [2] 1, wherein the apparatus includes a command-mode touchpad for instructing a voice recognition system to interpret spoken words as operating commands for the electronic device or a software application by speaking into the microphone.